

to have that road maintained, more so than it is to people living anywhere else in the city or the county. I really and truthfully, when I spoke before, you heard me say that I think businesses have that right to some reasonable payment, but on the other hand when I read the bill and it says the city or the county or the state has a duty to construct and maintain those streets, I am kind of between a rock and a hard place on this. I don't like to see the taxpayers pay for it because ultimately they are. The contractor is not going to pay this and that brings me to the second point. If the contractor puts in a bid for say a half a million or a million dollars to repair a street or construct a street, then your political subdivisions, your cities and counties, are going to add to that cost whatever they are able to estimate they have to pay the businesses and they may end up just saying, gee whiz, we can't afford this, so we are going to leave that street with the chuckholes in it or the washboard street that nobody wants to drive over. So that is just another point I wanted to bring out. I don't know yet whether I support this bill or not. I truly don't. Is it fair to ask everybody in a city to improve the streets on certain business locations, whereas sometimes in residential areas they don't get the improvements, or if they do, they are assessed for improving them. I know in Omaha we have streets that never had sidewalks before and now each homeowner is being assessed a proportionate share of what those sidewalks cost. So I think this is something else to consider. Maybe we will ultimately hurt the contracting business because they will have less and less roads to repair or maintain or construct because the political subdivisions and the cities and counties are going to say this is just too much money. We didn't budget for this. We budgeted for the street repair but we didn't budget for what we are going to have to reimburse those businesses that are injured at the time it takes to repair them, but at the same time will ultimately profit by having a better street. So I will just leave it to you to think about the same as I am going to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Lundy, then Senator Hefner. Senator Vard.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, when I first read LB 179, I thought this was a bill that was deserving a quick dispatch because I thought the bill would lay too many responsibilities on the state and the counties